

Filed for intro on 02/01/2001

SENATE BILL 758
By Dixon

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 29 and Title 68, Chapter 1, Part 1, relative to Tennessee's Hispanic population.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 68-1-118.

(a) In consultation with the office of minority health and the black health care commission, the commissioner of health shall establish and appoint an entity to be known as the Hispanic health care coordinating council. The council shall consist of five (5) knowledgeable and experienced members, at least one of whom shall reside in each of the state's three (3) grand divisions. The term of office for members shall be five (5) years; however, initial terms shall be appointed on a staggered basis to ensure that only one council position is scheduled for regular appointment or reappointment each year thereafter. Any vacancies occurring on the council shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term. Members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of council duties, in the same manner as

departmental employees are reimbursed by state government for job-related travel expenses. From among its membership, the council shall annually elect a chair, vice chair and such other officers as shall be deemed necessary.

(b) It shall be the duty of the coordinating council to advise and assist the department of health; the office of minority health, or its successor entity; and the black health care commission, or its successor entity, to more effectively and efficiently:

- (1) Communicate with Tennesseans of Hispanic origin;
- (2) Promote healthy lifestyles among Tennesseans of Hispanic origin;
- (3) Improve access to health care services and other health-related opportunities for Tennesseans of Hispanic origin; and
- (4) Perform other statutorily imposed duties and responsibilities directly or indirectly affecting the health of Tennesseans of Hispanic origin.

SECTION 2. The Hispanic health care coordinating council, created pursuant to Section 1 of this act, shall terminate in accordance with the provisions of the governmental entity review law, title 4, chapter 29.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001, the public welfare requiring it.